

# Notes from the Office

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January 2009



Welcome to 2009! The excitement of Christmas is wearing off, and the bills are coming in. Depending on what area of BC you live in it is cold and snowy, cold and rainy or just cold. January is a time for HCBC to reflect on the past year and plan revitalization for the New Year. While the 2010 Olympics dominate the sport world in BC right now, Equestrian Sport, Industry and Recreation continue to be HCBC's main focus. We will strive to continue to improve programs, create new programs and revitalize membership services.

**HORSE COUNCIL  
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Our first revitalization project was the online membership system. Have a look and you will see a cleaner, user friendly process that makes it easy to join online. A great benefit is that you can print your card right away, once you have joined with a credit card payment. Even better for those of you who lose their membership card, we now offer the ability for you to reprint your card any time you need to at no charge. Go to [www.hcbc.ca](http://www.hcbc.ca) and follow the link to membership renewal.

Early in the New Year, the HCBC website will undergo some cosmetic changes. While it is already full of information, sometimes what you need is hard to find. This website overhaul will make the site much easier to access the information you are looking for.

Online learning will again be expanded. We have several very interesting courses that will be up and running soon, so keep any eye out. Coaches remember you can use these courses for updating.

The forums are a very popular spot for members and non members alike. With over 3500 registered users, the system can bog down at time. Rest assured we are looking for answers to this problem with the technical support team. There have been complaints that the moderators of the forums are harsh and pretty quick with the delete button. That is true. The rules of the board are very strict, and must be in order to provide the membership with a system that is not libelous, passing on incorrect information, rumors and generally unpleasant postings. To this end, Chit Chat has been deleted and will not be returning. The HCBC forums attempt to live up to a high standard and still keep a friendly atmosphere, which is a difficult balance. There will be some forthcoming changes to the forums in our efforts to establish a community that is both equitable and fair to the majority of users. For users who like to chat amongst themselves, there are some great forums sites online that are geared towards this purpose.

The Coach lists on the website are being revitalized as well. Now the online EC Certified coach lists reflect if the coach or Instructor has an indoor arena, school horses, what their specialty is, whether they travel to students and the level of student they teach. This should help parents and riders make a choice of coach that suits them.

## **Suggested New Year's Resolutions for Horse Owners in an Uncertain Economy**

Everyone is very aware of the current economic situation; we have come up with a few ideas for resolutions to help horse owners keep costs down.

### **Preventative Horse Maintenance**

Resolve to do your best to provide your horse with the best quality preventative maintenance possible, including all necessary vaccinations, teeth and hoof care, and appropriate supplements if required. Worm your horse on a regular schedule. Quality care and commitment to that care makes for a happy horse and in the long run will save you hundreds of dollars in vet care and lost entry fees.

### **Preventive Tack Maintenance**

Well cared for tack can last a lifetime. Resolve to keep your tack clean, well oiled and properly put away. Be sure to keep an eye out for any repairs needed and have them done as soon as you can. You can save a lot of money and not have to replace expensive items due to misuse.

### **Preventive Blanket Maintenance**

As with tack items, blankets last a lot longer when properly cared for, cleaned and hung. Of course, the horse that loves to shred blankets to pass the time, does not help!

### **Preventative Barn Maintenance**

Resolve to keep a close eye on the condition of your barn. Check the wiring, roof and plumbing and the structure as a whole, and make repairs as needed.

### **Preventative Trailer Maintenance**

If you have a horse trailer, resolve to have it checked over on a regular basis. Replace the flooring if needed, check the tires, take care of any rust, and this will allow your trailer to last longer.

### **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle:**

Do you have items in your barn that you don't use anymore? There might be someone out there that is looking for that very item! Some clubs have tack swaps and sales, some stores will sell your used tack for you. Don't forget twine can be recycled as can feed bags. Composting manure is the environmentally correct thing to do as well as healthier for your horses.

**Practice Responsible Horse Ownership:**

Resolve to own only as many horses as you can afford to feed and maintain in the best health. Resolve to help out where and when you can with others who need help with their horses. Resolve to put aside an amount of money that you can afford each month that can help cover unexpected costs that come up.

**Keep learning:**

Resolve to keep learning! There are so many learning opportunities to take advantage of. With advances in Equine Health issues it is important to read, talk to your Vet, farrier or other Equine Professional to be able to keep up. The recent Strangles outbreak in the Fraser Valley was just such an opportunity to learn real facts about this highly contagious disease. Make sure that you use reliable and accredited sources for information though. Libraries, the internet, clubs and clinics are excellent sources.

**New Years Resolutions from HCBC****The Staff at HCBC resolve to:**

- Keep our Website updated with new and important content added as needed
- Send out weekly E-bulletins to keep members current with events, news and hot topics
- Provide assistance to callers to the best of our ability
- To inform, educate and raise awareness of the benefits of the BC Heritage Program
- Increase participation in General Performance competitions at a grass roots level.
- Continue to provide membership insurance to protect the horse enthusiast of BC
- Strive to provide excellent membership service
- Educate parents, athletes & coaches on the Long Term Athlete Development Model (LTAD)
- Continue to develop certified coaches for BC athletes
- Work to preserve, extend and develop access to trails and public lands
- Improve the welfare of the Horse in BC
- Provide and act as an Education/ Information resource for Equine related activities
- Development and Administration of local and provincial Competitions
- Continue to add value to the membership of Horse Council BC

**BC ATHLETE'S ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2008/09**

The BC Athletes Assistance Program (BC AAP) is funded by the Provincial Government and administered by the Sport and Recreation Branch of the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts. The program seeks to recognize high performance athletes who are participating in programs offered through a provincial sport organization to relieve some of the pressures associated with training and competition needs.

**Recipients of the 2008 BC Athlete's Assistance:****Eventing**

Chelan Kozak  
Kerry Johnston  
Marissa Wolfe  
Stephanie Rhodes-Bosch

**Jumping**

Christopher Lowe  
Justin Mercier  
Megan Southam  
Whitney Strachan

**Vaulting**

Alisa Porter

**Para Equestrian**

Ashley Gowanlock  
Jennifer McKenzie  
Phil Wright

Congratulations to our recipients, and thank you to all the applicants

**Western Heritage now called BC Heritage Circuit**

Changes to improve the Western Heritage Program have already begun. The new name "BC Heritage Circuit" has been selected to include all aspects of Western riding and English flat events. We are encouraging new participants from all General Performance disciplines to join. Any breed group, private facility, or horse club is eligible to host a qualifying show. The cost is minimal and Horse Council is available to help promote your event and provide administrative assistance. Riders need to purchase a Log Book and qualify at a minimum of 2 shows to participate at the Finals. The BC Heritage Finals will include open classes, 55+ age division, open gymkhana events, Battle of the Breeds, open driving classes, demonstrations, entertainment and more prizes this year. The event will be a fun filled weekend at Chilliwack Heritage Park July 11-12, 2009. HCBC is now offering funding to zones who offer qualifying events in 2009. For more information on how to register, purchase Log Books, find qualifying events, host a show, or sponsor the program, look under the *Competitions* section of our website, or call us today. Congratulations to our 2009 BC Heritage Finals judge Ellen Smailes, on her 2008 Lifetime Achievement award!

## **New HCBC Merchandise**

**Jackets:** Mens and Ladies Black S-XL \$65.00

**Hats:** White or Blue one size \$13.00

**Stainless Steel Water Bottles:** Silver or Blue \$12.00

**Lanyards:** Blue \$5.00

**Umbrellas:** Blue \$20.00

**Seat Cushions 15"X15":** Blue \$10.00

Call 1-800-345-8055 to order or email [bookstore@hcbc.ca](mailto:bookstore@hcbc.ca) or drop by the office Monday thru Friday, 8:30 to 4:30.

All prices are subject to GST and shipping.

## **HCBC Bookstore**

From Dressage to Trail Training, Horse Council's book store offers a fantastic selection of equine related titles. Visit us online, or drop by our office store. We have something for every interest and winter is a great time to catch up on your reading.

## **Ride and Drive Rewards Program**

How would you like to earn great prizes while spending time with your horse, either riding or driving? HCBC's Ride and Drive Rewards Program is a fun way to progress with your horse and reap rewards at the same time. All new look and prizes for 2009. Contact [recreation@hcbc.ca](mailto:recreation@hcbc.ca) for more information.

## **Road Safety**

With an ever increasing need for education on safety while riding on roads, Horse Council has developed a booklet and soon to be released online course geared towards helping both equestrians and other road users work together to promote safety.

**Senior Games in Richmond September 16-19 2009 Ages 55 and up.** Equestrian made its debut in Prince George at the 2008 Sr. Games. It was such a successful and fun event we have been invited back again for 2009! Potential equestrian events include Driving, Reining, Jumper, Dressage & Gymkhana. Discipline coordinators and Zone Reps are needed to make this a successful event. Please contact [competition@hcbc.ca](mailto:competition@hcbc.ca) for more information.

## **Manure Mavens are Here to Solve Your Manure Mayhem!**

Have you had it up to here? Turn your manure into black gold!

Langley Environmental Partners Society (LEPS) educates and provides technical assistance to equestrian landowners and small-lot farmers throughout the Province through the Manure Maiden program, offering manure composting and pasture management workshops as well as site consultations for individual land owners. The program has generated a huge response and was expanded to serve all of BC in 2007. We have now created a network of 16 regional facilitators, called **Manure Mavens**, in 7 regions throughout BC. These regions include: Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, Thompson Okanagan, Kootenay Rockies, Peace River, Northwest Coast, and the Cariboo Chilcotin.

The Manure Mavens will be available for general information, site consultations on private properties and workshops on manure and pasture management. Each Manure Maven has been supplied with copies of the Land Management Guide for Horse Owners and Small-Lot Farmers so if you are searching for this resource then they are the ones to call.

For more information on the Manure Maven Network and the regional facilitators please see the Manure Maiden website at [www.manuremaiden.com](http://www.manuremaiden.com). If you would like more information about the Manure Maiden program please contact Andrea Lawseth, Agricultural Stewardship Coordinator, at 604-352-3515 or at [alawseth@tol.bc.ca](mailto:alawseth@tol.bc.ca).